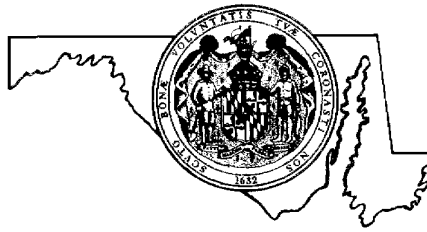


Craig P. Tanio, M.D.
CHAIR

STATE OF MARYLAND



Ben Steffen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

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TO: Hospital CEOs, CFOs

FROM: Ben Steffen, Executive Director, MHCC
Patrick Redmon, Executive Director, HSCRC

RE: QBR & Expanded Hospital Quality Measures Data Collection

DATE: January 29, 2013

As you know, the State of Maryland has been granted an exemption from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Value Based Purchasing Program (VBP). The Health Services Cost Review Commission's (HSCRC) Quality Based Reimbursement Program (QBR) serves as a major component of Maryland's alternative to the CMS VBP. We are pleased to report that the State's request for an exemption from the FY2014 CMS VBP has been approved. The CMS approval letter noted that Maryland's patient experience of care performance continues to lag behind national performance levels and we were encouraged to improve performance in this domain.

The CMS exemption approval letter also reiterated the importance of maintaining a comparable hospital quality program in Maryland that meets or exceeds the CMS program in cost and quality outcomes and directed HSCRC to incorporate additional quality measures in the QBR, including the measures identified in the FY2015 VBP program and Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) initiative. In response to the CMS directive, the HSCRC, in collaboration with the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) intends to expand its hospital quality measures data collection requirements to comply with CMS Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR), Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) and VBP program requirements. Our expanded quality data collection requirements will be phased in over the next several months with full implementation of CMS IQR, OQR, and VBP requirements for Maryland hospitals beginning January 1, 2014.

Additional detailed instructions and specific measure data submission deadlines will be provided to your Performance Improvement and Infection Prevention staff within the next few days to provide sufficient time to plan for these new requirements.

If you have questions regarding the new data requirements, please contact Theresa Lee at theressa.lee@maryland.gov. Questions regarding the HSCRC QBR program should be directed to Dianne Feeney at dianne.feeney@maryland.gov.

Cc: Performance Improvement Managers, Infection Preventionists, Casemix Liaisons